

Henry Stanton to Andrew Jackson, August 2, 1821, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

MAJOR HENRY STANTON TO JACKSON.1

1 State Dept., Terr. Pap., Fla. (copy).

Pensacola, August 2, 1821.

Sir, In compliance with the wishes expressed in your Excellency's note of this morning directing me to state particularly to your Excellency my understanding as to the conditions on which provisions were furnished to the Spanish Troops for their subsistence from this place to the Havana: I have the honor to inform your Excellency, that I have, in the frequent conversations with your Excellency on the subject, and by your Excy's letter of 6th of July understood distinctly that it had been agreed between yourself and Governor Callava, that the provisions, not being provided for by the 7th article of the late treaty, were to be placed on the same footing with the ordnance left in your Excellency's possession:, subject to the future decision of the Governments of Spain and the United States.²

² Jackson had two quarrels with Callava. One was over the provisions to be furnished the Spanish officials and soldiers while being transported to Havana, a point on which the treaty of cession said nothing. The other, a furious quarrel, arose over the refusal of the Spaniard to release some legal papers demanded by Jackson as necessary in a law suit then pending. This letter deals with the first of these controversies. To understand it properly it is necessary to read the following note from José Y. Cruzat, Callava's secretary, to Major Stanton, acting for Jackson, dated Aug. 1, 1821:

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“ *Dear Sir*, I have translated the Inventory, which, together with a private note, you sent to me yesterday, to be signed by the late Governor of this Province, Dn José Callava. That gentleman, after having taken a full and accurate view of the subject, has directed me to make you the following answer.

“That by the communications of H. C. Majesty's Minister Plenipotentiary near the Govmt. of the U. States, as well as through the channels of the Capt. Genl. of the Island of Cuba, he (said Governor) has been officially informed that the Provisions for the transportation of the Spanish Garrison from this place to the Havanna, were to be furnished by the U. States; that he has not been entrusted with the reason or consideration for which they have been furnished, and consequently that in no document is he at liberty to mention any thing more than that they have in effect been furnished by the U. S.

“That taking for his guide the facts above stated, and confining himself to that line of conduct which it is the duty of a Subaltern to observe, he has extended the Document from its simplest form to the utmost limits of which the state of the case would admit, and that he cannot add, subtract, or alter, a single word in it. He regrets extremely that it is not in his power to gratify H. E. the General, by making in that document the transformation requested by him.”

In your excellency's instructions to me of the 23rd of June, it was stated that an Inventory of provisions placed on board of the transports would be taken, signed by the officer receiving it; and countersigned by myself. In compliance with this intimation, the enclosed Invoice was transmitted to Govr Callava through Don Manuel Garcíé on the 16th of July. It was at the time, my opinion that the form of this Invoice was such as your instructions indicated, but it was not my intention to accept of any receipt until it had been submitted to your Excellency for such amendment, as your Excellency might have thought proper to suggest.

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On the morning of the 17th the day of the surrender to the American authorities of West Florida, It was stated to me by Mr Crusat secretary to the Spanish Governor, that as his Excellency was seriously indisposed: and had much business to transact during the morning, he wished to delay the execution of the receipt for the provisions as well as the statement required from him of the number of Troops etc actually embarked on board the transports, until a more convenient moment: when they would be duly executed. It is not possible for me to state to your Excellency the precise terms used by Mr Crusat; but they were such as to create a confident belief that the unsettled concerns alluded to in our conversation, would be adjusted agreeably to the understanding which existed between your Excellency and Gov Callava; and to the satisfaction of all concerned. This conversation; and request was reported by me to your Excellency; and the delay desired by Mr Crosat, granted.

A copy of the instrument furnished by Gov Callava relative to the provisions is herewith enclosed.

I have the honor to be